

Message Text

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ACTION NRC-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 OES-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 INT-05 /041 W

-----105951 230732Z /15

P R 230654Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4551

INFO DOE GERMANTOWN

DOE WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 1074

DEPT PASS TO NRC FOR J. LAFLEUR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, TPHY, JA

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR PLANTS UNAFFECTED BY IZU EARTHQUAKE

REF: JAN 17 TELECON LAFLEUR-HENoch

1. RICHTER SCALE MAGNITUDE SEVEN EARTHQUAKE OCCURRED ALONG A WIDE AREA ON JAPAN'S PACIFIC SEABOARD, CENTERING ON THE KANTO AND CHUBU DISTRICTS AT 12:24 P.M., ON JANUARY 14, 1978. THE METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY SAID THE INTENSITY OF THE QUAKE WAS GIVEN ON THE JAPANESE SCALE OF SEVEN ON OSHIMA ISLAND AND IN YOKOHAMA, FOUR IN TOKYO, SHIZUOKA AND MISHIMA IN SHIZUOKA PREFECTURE, AND FOUR IN KUMAGAYA IS SAITAMA PREFECTURE. INTENSITY WAS THREE IN NAGOYA, KOFU IN YAMANASHI PREFECTURE, OMAEZAKI, THE SITE OF CHUBU'S HAMAOKA NUCLEAR POWER STATION. INTENSITY WAS TWO IN TOKAI-MURA, MITO, TSURUGA, AND TAKAHAMA. THE EPICENTER WAS LOCATED AT SEA OFF OSHIMA ISLAND, FOCUS WAS 10 TO 20 KILOMETERS IN DEPTH FROM THE SEABED.

2. REGULATORY STAFF OF STA AND MITI QUESTIONED OPERATORS OF TESTING AND OPERATING POWER REACTORS, RESEARCH REACTORS, AND CRITICAL ASSEMBLIES AT SITES THROUGHOUT
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JAPAN ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE EARTHQUAKE. NO AUTOMATIC OR OPERATOR SCRAM OCCURRED. NO DAMAGES SO FAR HAVE BEEN REPORTED. HAMAOKA REGISTERED THE HIGHEST INTENSITY OF THREE. NO DAMAGE HAS BEEN REPORTED FROM HAMAOKA. THE STA REGULATORY STAFF BELIEVES THE EARTHQUAKE RESULTED IN NO DAMAGE TO ANY POWER REACTOR IN JAPAN.

3. THE JAPANESE INTENSITY SCALE AND MAXIMUM ACCELERATION
ARE LISTED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

INTENSITY DESCRIPTION MAXIMUM-ACCELERATION

I	SLIGHT	0.5-2 CM/SEC ²
II	WEAK	2-8
III	RATHER STRONG	8-32
IV	STRONG	32-128
V	VERY STRONG	128-250
VI	DISASTROUS	250-350
VII	VERY DISASTROUS	350-UP

4. PLEASE NOTE THAT JAPANESE CLOSED-END PERCEPTION SCALE SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH RICHTER MAGNITUDE. PERCEPTION SCALE IS ROUGH MEASURE OF GROUND MOTION AT ANY GIVEN LOCATION. RICHTER SCALE IS LOGARITHMIC AND OPEN-ENDED AND REPRESENTS AMOUNT OF ENERGY RELEASE AT FOCUS OF EARTHQUAKE. JAPANESE INTENSITY SCALE CANNOT BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO RICHTER MAGNITUDE, SINCE PERCEPTION OF GROUND MOTION DEPENDS ON DISTANCE FROM FOCUS AND INTERVENING GEOLOGY. THE KANTO GREAT EARTHQUAKE OF 1923 WAS MAGNITUDE 7.9. ROUGHLY MAGNITUDE 7 OR GREATER EARTHQUAKES OCCUR ONCE A YEAR, AND MAGNITUDE 6 TO 7 TEN TIMES A YEAR IN JAPAN.

5. DETAILED INFORMATION ON EARTHQUAKES CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING DIRECTOR, EARTHQUAKE DIVISION, OBSERVATION DEPARTMENT, METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, UNCLASSIFIED

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3-4 OHTEMACHI, 1-CHOME, CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO. IF NRC HAS SPECIFIC QUESTIONS EMBASSY WILL BE PLEASED TO OBTAIN ANSWERS FROM MOT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EARTHQUAKES, SEISMIC DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO01074
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780033-0649
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780132/aaaabatq.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8af324e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NRC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3728443
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR PLANTS UNAFFECTED BY IZU EARTHQUAKE
TAGS: TECH, TPHY, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8af324e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014